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Editor's Foreword (Volume 6)

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Editor's Foreword

With this, the sixth volume of *RWP*, we say a reluctant farewell to James A. Grimshaw, Jr. and William Bedford Clark as editors of the annual, but we happily welcome them as individual contributors, Prof. Grimshaw with a moving tribute to his late mentor and friend, Lewis P. Simpson, and Prof. Clark with his compelling account of a "Tut's tomb" discovery in Warren studies. It is fitting that Volume Six of *RWP* begin with contributions from these gentlemen, for Warren scholars everywhere owe them an immense debt of gratitude for so capably editing the first five volumes of this annual and for their massive contributions to Warren studies in general. Having them lead the way here, in Volume Six, is a small way of paying homage to them and saying "thanks." I must also extend my personal thanks to Profs. Grimshaw and Clark for their help and advice as I began editing *RWP*.

I would also like to thank members of the MCLA administration and my department chair at Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts for supporting me in this endeavor and, thus, for supporting Warren studies: President Mary K. Grant; Vice-President for Academic Affairs Stephen A. Green; Dean of Academic Affairs Monica Joslin; and English/Communications Department Chairperson Robert Bishoff. I must also extend a special thanks to Managing Editor Ted Hovet, Jr., whose advice and encouragement have been invaluable to me since I assumed editorship of *RWP* in late November, 2005, and to both Prof. Hovet and Prof. Lloyd Davies for their ongoing dedication to the annual. Finally, on behalf of Warren aficionados everywhere, I would like to thank again in these pages those persons at Western Kentucky University who have made this publication possible: President Gary Ransdell, Provost Barbara Burch, Dean David Lee of the Potter College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, and the members of the Center for Robert Penn Warren Studies at WKU, beginning with the Center's Coordinator, Mary Ellen Miller. Without the commitment, generosity, and hard work of these members of the WKU community, *RWP* simply would not exist.

WKU Professor Emeritus Joseph R. Millichap, who was also instrumental in the founding of the annual, describes in this volume yet another important gift from the Warren family to the already-prodigious collection of Warren materials at Western Kentucky University. Between Prof. Millichap's contribution to this volume, which ends it, and those by Profs. Grimshaw and Clark, which begin it, we offer a selection of five, more traditionally scholarly articles whose authors, in keeping with past practice, range from established scholars to neophytes. One of the newcomers, Alan Miller, was the 2005 winner of the Robert Penn Warren Essay Contest at WKU. As also in the past, the breadth of subject matter in these scholarly essays attests to the incredible richness and variety to be found in the life and work of Robert Penn Warren.

Friendship, mentoring, generosity, creative and intellectual vitality: these are all aspects of Robert Penn Warren's legacy to us, just as they were all aspects of his own being, so it is not surprising—though it is certainly fitting—that these same qualities are expressed and demonstrated within these pages, just as they were expressed and demonstrated within the pages of volumes one through five of *RWP*. Above all, an *Annual of Robert Penn Warren Studies* should be deeply human in these ways, and we intend for this publication to continue so.

However, Robert Penn Warren was a man of legendary energy and extraordinary parts, even his friendship and its effects seeming, in retrospect, outsized. He was also incredibly complex, complexity (complicity)—including his own—being at once a subject and a theme. As a result, we have much to do to keep up with him, even today—or especially today. Accordingly, we plan to inaugurate some new features of *RWP* in future issues, even as we continue certain appropriate and well-established practices, such as publishing student authors. Some of the innovations will fulfill old ambitions, others will be entirely new, and still others probably haven't occurred to us yet. In each case, our goal will remain what it has been: to promote understanding and appreciation of the life and work of Robert Penn Warren.

Mark D. Miller